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Message Text

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43
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 EB-07 TRSE-00 /053 W
---------- 020016
R 271653Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8555

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CFED, BF
SUBJ: 60 MINUTE PROGRAM

REF: NASSAU 1352

1. CBS CREW CONTINUES TO FILM AROUND TOWN.

2. DONALDSON, GOVERNOR OF CENTRAL BANK, TELLS ME THAT HE SPENT TWO AND ONE-HALF HOURS UNDER "INQUISITION." HE WAS QUERIED ON CASTLE BANK, U.S. TAX EVASION, OPERATIONS "HAVEN" AND "TRADEWINDS", VESCO EFFORTS TO OPEN A BANK, EASE WITH WHICH AMERICANS CAN OPEN BANK ACCOUNTS IN NASSAU, AND QUESTIONS REGARDING PERSONAL FINANCES OF THE PRIME MINISTER. ON THE LATTER, FOR EXAMPLE, HE WAS ASKED WHY THE PRIMIN SECURED A DOLS 50,000 LOAN TO PURCHASE HIS HOME FROM CASTLE BANK AND WHY THE LOAN WAS NOT REPAID. OBVIOUSLY DONALDSON DID NOT ANSWER.

3. VARIOUS OTHER BANKERS IN TOWN HAVE ALSO BEEN INTERVIEWED. WALLACE USED THE PLOY DESCRIBED REFTEL, DESCRIBING HOW HE OPENED A BANK ACCOUNT IN NASSAU WITH VARIOUS OF THE BANKS. HE ALSO USED THE PLOY OF QUOTING FROM THE INTERNAL IRS MEMO WHICH IMPLIED THAT EMBASSY HAD BEEN BRIEFED IN OPERATIONS "HAVEN" AND "TRADEWINDS" (ALTHOUGH THAT IS NOT WHAT THE MEMORANDUM SAYS AND EVEN THOUGH THAT IS NOT THE TRUTH).
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RM THE CAMERA CREWS ARE TAKING PICTURES OF VARIOUS OF THE BANKS, OF THE PEOPLE COMING IN AND OUT OF THE BANKS, AND HAVE TAKEN PICTURES OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S RESIDENCE.

5. THE GENERAL LINE THAT THE CBS CREW HAS BEEN GIVING IS THAT THE PROGRAM WILL FOCUS ON THE CASTLE BANK AND ON THE EXCESSES OF LOWER LEVEL U.S. BUREAUCRATS (PRESUMABLY IRS INVESTIGATORS). HOWEVER, GIVEN THE RATHER WIDE-RANGING SORTS OF QUESTIONS WHICH ARE BEING ASKED, NO ONE IS SURE OF WHAT GENERAL LINE THE PROGRAM WILL TAKE AND ALL THOSE TO WHOM I HAVE TALKED INDICATE THAT IF PROGRAM DIRECTORS CHOSE TO BE UNFAIR THEY COULD EASILY PICK AND CHOOSE AMONG THE FILM CLIPS TO PAINT A POOR PICTURE OF GROB AND ITS RECEPTIVITY TO HARBORING TAX EVADERS AND, MORE GENERALLY, TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE HARBORING OF UNSAVORY CHARACTERS, INCLUDING THE IMPLICATION THAT OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENT UP TO AND INCLUDING THE PRIMIN MAY BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED.

6. WE SHALL KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED IF THERE ARE ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS WORTH REPORTING.
WEISS

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